**Texas Nonprofit Hospitals ***
**Part II**
**Summary of Current Hospital Charity Care Policy and Community Benefits for Inclusion in DSHS Charity Care Manual as Required by Texas Health and Safety Code, § 311.0461****
**-2010-**

**Facility Identification (FID):** 611790 (Enter 7-digit FID# from attached hospital listing)***

**Name of Hospital:** Valley Baptist Medical Center **County:** Cameron

**Mailing Address:** 2101 Pease Street, Harlingen, TX 78550

**Physical Address if different from above:**

**Effective Date of the current policy:** 09/16/2010

**Date of Scheduled Revision of this policy:** 09/01/2011

**How often do you revise your charity care policy?** As needed

**Provide the following information on the office and contact person(s) processing requests for charity care.**

Name of the office/department: Financial Counseling/Revenue Cycle

Mailing Address: 2101 Pease Street, Harlingen, TX 78550

Contact Person: Brad Tinnermon Title: Director, Revenue Cycle

Phone: (956) 389-2039 Fax: (956) 389-2017 E-Mail bradley.tinnermon@valleybaptist.net

Person completing this form if different from above:

Name: Michele Marcnitch Phone: (956) 389-5158

* This summary form is to be completed by each nonprofit hospital. Hospitals in a system must report on an individual hospital basis. Public hospitals, for-profit hospitals participating in the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program and exempt hospitals are not required to complete this form. This form is also available in Word or PDF formats at DSHS web site: www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp under 2010 Annual Statement of Community Benefits Standard.

** The information in the manual will be made available for public use. Please report most current information on the charity care policy and community benefits provided by the hospital.

*** The list is also available on DSHS web site: www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp/.

**I. Charity Care Policy:**

1. Include your hospital's Charity Care Mission statement in the space below.

Valley Baptist has a long history of providing quality healthcare to patients within our community regardless of their ability to pay.

2. Provide the following information regarding your hospital's current charity care policy.

a. Provide definition of the term **charity care** for your hospital.

"For the purposes of this policy, ther term financial assistance will be used in place of charity care in order to provide the patient with respect and dignity during the application process." "Financial assistance: Service provided to a patient who is

b. What percentage of the federal poverty guidelines is financial eligibility based upon? Check one.

- ☐ 1. <100%
- ☐ 2. <133%
- ☐ 3. <150%
- ☑ 4. <200%
- ☐ 5. Other, specify _____

c. Is eligibility based upon ☐ net or ☑ gross income? Check one.

d. Does your hospital have a charity care policy for the Medically Indigent?

☑ YES ☐ NO IF yes, provide the definition of the term **Medically Indigent**.

"Medically Indigent "refers to an applicant whose hospital bill after payment by third party payors and other third party sources of payment exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the applicants total yearly income, and who is unable to pay the remaining balance.

e. Does your hospital use an Assets test to determine eligibility for charity care?

☑ YES ☐ NO If yes, please briefly summarize method.

Review assets versus income.

f. Whose income and resources are considered for income and/or assets eligibility determination.

- ☐ 1. Single parent and children
- ☐ 2. Mother, Father and Children
- ☑ 3. All family members
- ☐ 4. All household members
- ☐ 5. Other, please explain _____

g. What is included in your definition of income from the list below? Check all that apply.

☑ 1. Wages and salaries before deductions
☑ 2. Self-employment income
☑ 3. Social security benefits
☑ 4. Pensions and retirement benefits
☑ 5. Unemployment compensation
☑ 6. Strike benefits from union funds
☑ 7. Worker's compensation
☑ 8. Veteran's payments
☑ 9. Public assistance payments
☑ 10. Training stipends
☑ 11. Alimony
☑ 12. Child support
☑ 13. Military family allotments
☑ 14. Income from dividends, interest, rents, royalties
☑ 15. Regular insurance or annuity payments
☑ 16. Income from estates and trusts
☑ 17. Support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household
☑ 18. Lottery winnings
☑ 19. Other, specify savings & checking accts, CDs, stocks, bonds, real

3. Does application for charity care require completion of a form? ☑ YES ☐ NO

If YES,

a. **Please attach a copy of the charity care application form.**

b. How does a patient request an application form? Check all that apply.

☑ 1. By telephone
☑ 2. In person
☐ 3. Other, please specify _____

c. Are charity care application forms available in places other than the hospital?

☐ YES ☑ NO If YES, please provide name and address of the place.

d. Is the application form available in language(s) other than English?

☑ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please check

☑ Spanish ☐ Other, specify _____

4. When evaluating a charity care application,

a. How is the information verified by the hospital?

- ☐ 1. The hospital independently verifies information with third party evidence (W2, pay stubs)
- ☐ 2. The hospital uses patient self-declaration
- ☑ 3. The hospital uses independent verification and patient self-declaration

b. What documents does your hospital use/require to verify income, expenses, and assets? Check all that apply.

- ☑ 1. W2-form
- ☑ 2. Wage and earning statement
- ☑ 3. Pay check remittance
- ☑ 4. Worker's compensation
- ☑ 5. Unemployment compensation determination letters
- ☑ 6. Income tax returns
- ☑ 7. Statement from employer
- ☑ 8. Social security statement of earnings
- ☑ 9. Bank statements
- ☑ 10. Copy of checks
- ☑ 11. Living expenses
- ☑ 12. Long term notes
- ☑ 13. Copy of bills
- ☑ 14. Mortgage statements
- ☑ 15. Document of assets
- ☑ 16. Documents of sources of income
- ☑ 17. Telephone verification of gross income with the employer
- ☑ 18. Proof of participation in govt assistance programs such as Medicaid
- ☑ 19. Signed affidavit or attestation by patient
- ☑ 20. Veterans benefit statement
- ☑ 21. Other, please specify

5. When is a patient determined to be a charity care patient? Check all that apply.

- ☑ a. At the time of admission
- ☑ b. During hospital stay
- ☑ c. At discharge
- ☑ d. After discharge
- ☐ e. Other, please specify _____

6. How much of the bill will your hospital cover under the charity care policy?

- ☑ a. 100%
- ☐ b. A specified amount/percentage based on the patient's financial situation
- ☐ c. A minimum or maximum dollar or percentage amount established by the hospital
- ☐ d. Other, please specify _____

7. Is there a charge for processing an application/request for charity care assistance?

☐ YES ☑ NO

8. How many days does it take for your hospital to complete the eligibility determination process?
60 days plus

9. How long does the eligibility last before the patient will need to reapply? Check one.

- ☐ a. Per admission
- ☐ b. Less than six months
- ☐ c. One year
- ☑ d. Other, specify 6 Months

10. How does the hospital notify the patient about their eligibility for charity care? Check all that apply?

- ☐ a. In person
- ☐ b. By telephone
- ☑ c. By correspondence
- ☐ d. Other, specify _____

11. Are all services provided by your hospital available to charity care patients?

☐ YES ☑ NO

If NO, please list services not covered for charity care patients (e.g. transplant services, ER services, other outpatient services, physician's fees).

Excluded services are "elected procedures" such as cosmetic procedures, infertility treatments, and pharmacy items not provided during a hospital stay and conveniance charges may be eligible for financial assistance.

12. Does your hospital pay for charity care services provided at hospitals owned by others?

☐ YES ☑ NO

## II. Community Benefits Projects/Activities:

Provide information on name, brief description (3 lines), target population or purpose (3 lines) for each of the community benefits projects/activities CURRENTLY being undertaken by your hospital (example: diabetes awareness).

## Additional Information:

Use this space if more space is required for comments or to elaborate on any of the information supplied on this form. Please refer to the response by question and item number.